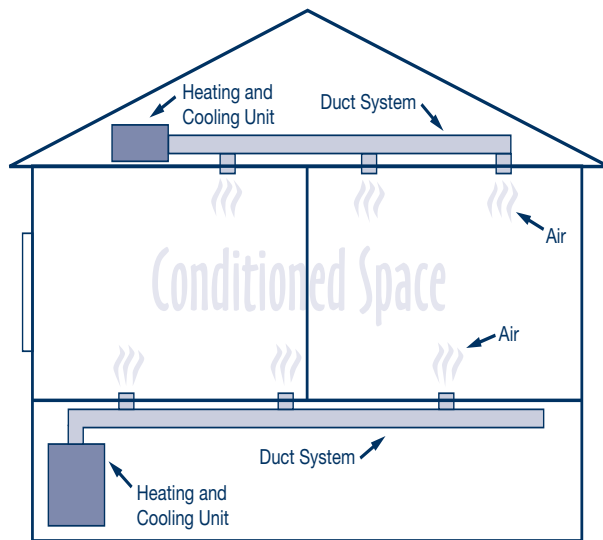


## Don't Let **Leaky Ducts** Drain Your **Wallet**

Have you ever stopped to consider the process that heats your home in the dead of winter and cools it during the treacherous summer heat? If you are like most people, just being comfortable is your bottom line.

Your home's duct system circulates warm and cool air throughout your home. A duct system that has been properly sealed can safely and efficiently keep your home feeling fresh and comfortable year-round — and save you money too!

**The following diagram shows two common placements for duct systems.**



Ducts can be located in the basement, attic, or **conditioned space**/occupied living space within your home. The **heating and cooling unit** is connected to the duct system delivering heated and cooled air to your home. However, it is very common to have many small holes or gaps in the **duct system** which make the system inefficient and wastes energy.

A knowledgeable contractor can **perform tests** on your duct system to determine whether your home will be more comfortable, more efficient, and safer by having the leaks in your duct system sealed.

## What is the **ENERGY STAR®** Label?

The ENERGY STAR label helps consumers recognize energy-efficient products that save money on their utility bills. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) created the ENERGY STAR label as the symbol for energy efficiency because of the direct link between wasted energy and air pollution. Manufacturers and builders voluntarily display the label on products and new homes that meet high efficiency ENERGY STAR guidelines, including heating and cooling equipment, household appliances, TVs, VCRs, and residential light fixtures.



## Are Your Ducts in a Row?

Protect your  
family and  
save money.



# What Are the **Benefits** of Sealing the **Ducts** in Your Home?

## Save Money!

Leaking ducts can **decrease** the overall efficiency of your heating and cooling system by as much as **20 percent**. Properly sealing the leaks in your duct system can boost efficiency and lower your energy bills. The typical family could **save up to \$140 annually**.

## Get Your Money's Worth!

The heating or cooling equipment you purchased for your home came with an energy efficiency rating. The higher rating typically requires a larger initial investment. Here's the catch — no matter how energy-efficient your equipment is, it will not perform at its best if the ducts are leaky. Be sure to get what you pay for by complementing your efficient equipment purchase with properly sealed ducts.

## Comfort!

Duct leaks and improper duct sizing can affect the comfort level in your home by keeping some rooms cooler or warmer than others, making you feel uncomfortable. The source of discomfort may be **leaky ducts** or **improperly sized ducts**. Sealing your ducts can increase the ability of air conditioners, furnaces, and heat pumps to evenly heat and cool all of the rooms in your home.

## Health!

Air may leak into your duct system if it is not sealed properly. This can be harmful to your health because air leaks in the duct system may contain fumes from **household and garden chemicals, insulation particles, mold, and dust**. These items can aggravate existing **asthma** and **allergy problems**. Why take the risk? Sealing your ducts can help you breathe easier by improving your **indoor air quality**, reducing the risk of **pollutants** entering and circulating through your home, and avoiding potential health problems.

## Safety!

Safety in your home is your number one priority. Duct leaks can cause equipment to **backdraft** (when **combustion gases** flow back into your home, instead of out the vents). If fireplaces, wood stoves, water heaters, furnaces, clothes dryers or other combustion devices are in depressurized areas, invisible gases, such as **carbon monoxide (CO)**, can backdraft into your home instead of going up the chimney. Make the smart choice and choose to upgrade your duct system!

## Protect the Environment!

Energy generation and use is the single largest contributor to air pollution. If you're wasting up to 20 percent of your heating and cooling system's performance through leaky ducts, your home is using more energy to get the same job done.

By sealing your ducts and reducing the amount of energy necessary to comfortably heat or cool your home, you will lower the amount of air pollution generated.



Saving money and protecting your family are high priorities. Many factors affect the efficiency of your ducts such as climate, location of your ducts, and the amount of insulation around your ducts. Start Saving Today. **To learn more about sealing your ducts, or to determine whether your home is a good candidate for duct sealing, visit [www.energystar.gov/ducts](http://www.energystar.gov/ducts)**